

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 15, 2006, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Objection to Disclosure

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because of the minor numbering informalities. Applicant has amended the specification as indicated above. Applicant believes that the amendments to the specification addresses the Examiner's objection, consequently, Applicant requests that the objection to the disclosure be withdrawn.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 9-12 because of the minor informalities. Applicant has amended the word "exciting" to read as "exiting." Consequently, Applicant submits that the objection to claims 9-12 should be withdrawn.

III. Double Patenting

Claims 1, 5, 13-15 and 19 stand rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2, 4, 6 and 10 of Iwasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,907,177).

Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the rejection of claims 1, 5, 13-15 and 19. Consequently, claims 1, 5, 13-15 and 19 should be deemed allowable.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-4, 6-12, 16-18 and 20-22 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2-4, 6-12, 16-18 and 20-22 should be deemed allowable, without amendment, by virtue of their dependency to claim 1 for the reasons set forth above.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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